



**1127th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday March 24, 2010
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

The Tokens and Medals of the PCNS
Herb Miles

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday March 24 at 7:30 to hear Herb Miles tell us about the tokens and medal issued by the Society over the course of its history. Although the 1000th meeting medal set is still available, it is not too early to think about the 100th anniversary of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society...

1126th meeting February 2010 White Elephant Sale

It has been at least ten years since the society had a White Elephant sale and all who attended agreed that was way too long ago. The bidding in this fund raiser was particularly spirited and raised over \$1400. Of particular interest were a number of 1915 PPIE badges from the PCNS collection as well as a large 2005 ANA bronze medal. But bargains were to be had as well and all who attended left happy. The club benefits from this in that at least a year's expenses will be covered without having to raise dues. Thanks to all who donated and bid. And special thanks to Steve Huston for serving as auctioneer and to Herb Miles as the auction runner. Herb flew in from southern California just for the event!

The following article is the first submission for the new short papers contest. All members are invited to participate. A winner will be decided at the December Holiday Party and a prize to be awarded donated by Herb. Thank you to both Herb and Dan!

Swiss Shooting Festival Medals and Thalers

Dan Hipple

There is a common misperception about Swiss Shooting Festival Thalers. Only one of these is acknowledged by the Swiss government as actual currency. There were 19 silver shooting festival coins produced since the forming of the federation in 1848, with the first being struck in 1855 and the last in 1939. There were two others produced prior to the federation, those being the 1842 Graubunden and the 1847 Glarus. These are always listed under their appropriate Cantons, not in the Shooting Thaler listings. In addition to these silver coins, there were two gold coins produced, one for Fribourg in 1934 and one for Luzern in 1939. The 1934 gold coin was

marked as 100 Francs and the 1939 gold coin was marked as 100 Franken.

Of the silver coins, there were four different markings for denomination. The first coin (1842) was marked as 4 Franken. The second coin, in 1847, was marked as 40 Batzen. All of the others were marked as either 5 Franks or 5 Franken. The Swiss government's position is that the 1855 Solothurn 5 francs was equal currency and used as such. They also state that all of the other coins are medals. Their position is that even though the coins are marked with values of their day, the stamped values only represent that the coins are made to the same specifications of weight and silver purity as the coin they are marked as. In the real world, these coins were actually accepted and used for currency. There are even examples of coins with the Chinese 'chop' marks. Since the silver content and weight were the same as the coins, they were readily accepted for trade, but, you could not take them to a bank in Switzerland and exchange them for other currency or deposit them in an account. The engraving work on these coins is exceptional, particularly on the 'city view' coins. All of these coins had very low mintages, with a low of 3,000 to a high of 40,000. Most mintages were in the range of 6,000-15,000 coins. These are very collectable, and high quality pieces can still be found.



1939 Luzern Five Franc silver shooting medal. Image credit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:1939LucerneShootingTaler.jpg>

2010 Papers contest

Articles are solicited for the next PCNS papers contest. The due date will be the April 2010 meeting. Authors are reminded that all illustrations and photos must have the permission to be used for publication. Also note that many images available on the internet are not in the public domain nor of high enough resolution to be suitable for the quality of publication that we envision. Full contest rules will be available on the PCNS website, www.pcns.org.

On a related note, congratulations to Elliot Wehner, whose article in the January 2010 issue of *The Numismatist* entitled "English Coins during the Great Rebellion" made the cover! This article, about the siege coinage of Britain's King Charles I, was originally part of his sophomore thesis at the Johns Hopkins University. He began this research in an earlier study for the PCNS papers contest.

There are no Raffle or Exhibits to report in February 2010 because of the White Elephant Sale.